BLACK WIND

by Jay-guun

This is a Korean webtoon and the original can be found at www.daum.net

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Black Wind ch 01

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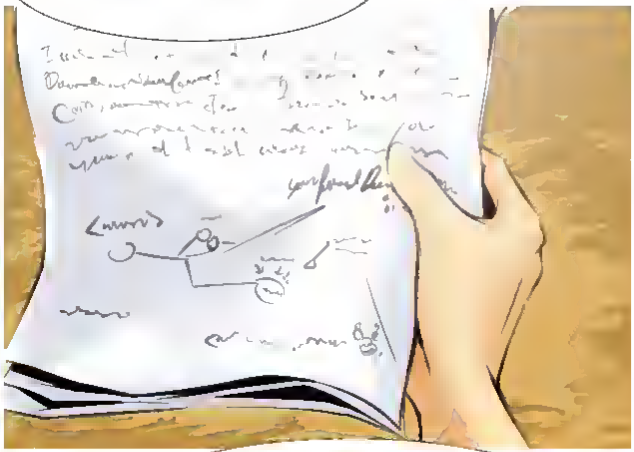
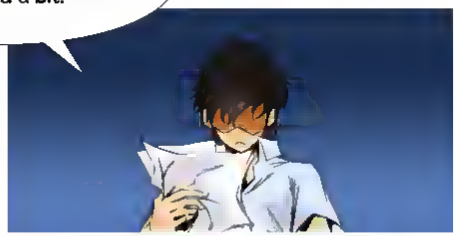
Sigh~ she's still the same.

Who sends handwritten letters these days...?



Though... "There is a real witch in Roselum" ...is she still searching for witches?

Ah! She really hasn't changed a bit.



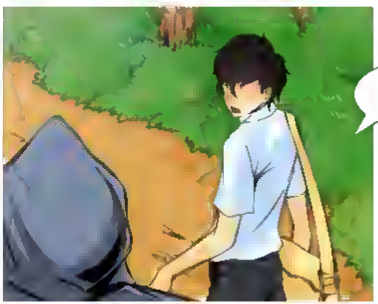
I've already met six forks... exactly where is the "straightaway"?

Hmph~ Why is it so far away~ It's not like I'm searching for a princess kidnapped by a witch...

BLACK
블랙윈드
WIND
PANDORA

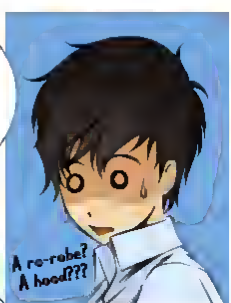
...Ah~ How can so much forest fit on a single island? Is there really a town here? I haven't seen a single car pass by...
...let alone a person

...If you're heading towards Roselum, you're on the right track. You'll able to see the town gates very soon.



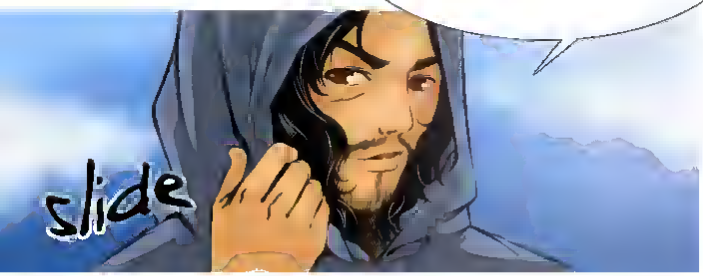
!?

No cars must've made it hard for you. There are no vehicles in town during festival season in order to mimic the times when witches existed. As this is a small town it doesn't pose much of an issue.



Ah... is that so?

Ah! I suppose you didn't know we are in the middle of a witch festival? Haha, my strange clothes must have confused you.



Roselum is currently having a witch festival, so the entire town has a Halloween atmosphere.

You'll see more ornaments like this as you get closer to the town. You won't lose your way if you follow those. We worked hard on them.

Being a small town, the people go all-out for festivals. We even prepare such costumes. Ah, once we enter the town you'll probably be able to ride a sightseeing carriage for a tour.
...This town must really like witches... to go through the trouble of having a festival!

Actually... it's the opposite.

What?

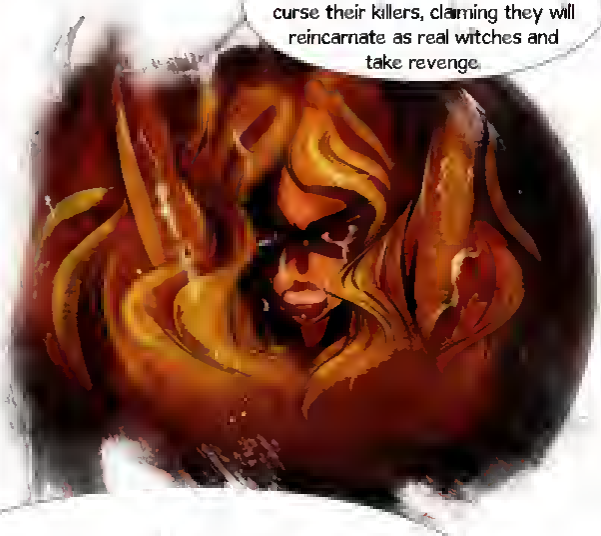
Only the tourists like it... In reality, the old witch hunts were intense here.
Their remnants still lie about.
Most people don't know as this is just a small island, but this place suffered through the harshest witch hunts in Europe, at least in proportion to the ratio of victims to population. That's why it has the nickname "Witch Island".

The vast amount of victims made it impossible to keep a death count. It's easy to find neglected graves like this.

To be honest, these can't even be called graves. They just dumped the bodies into holes and raised some tombstones.

There were too many deaths to identify them all...

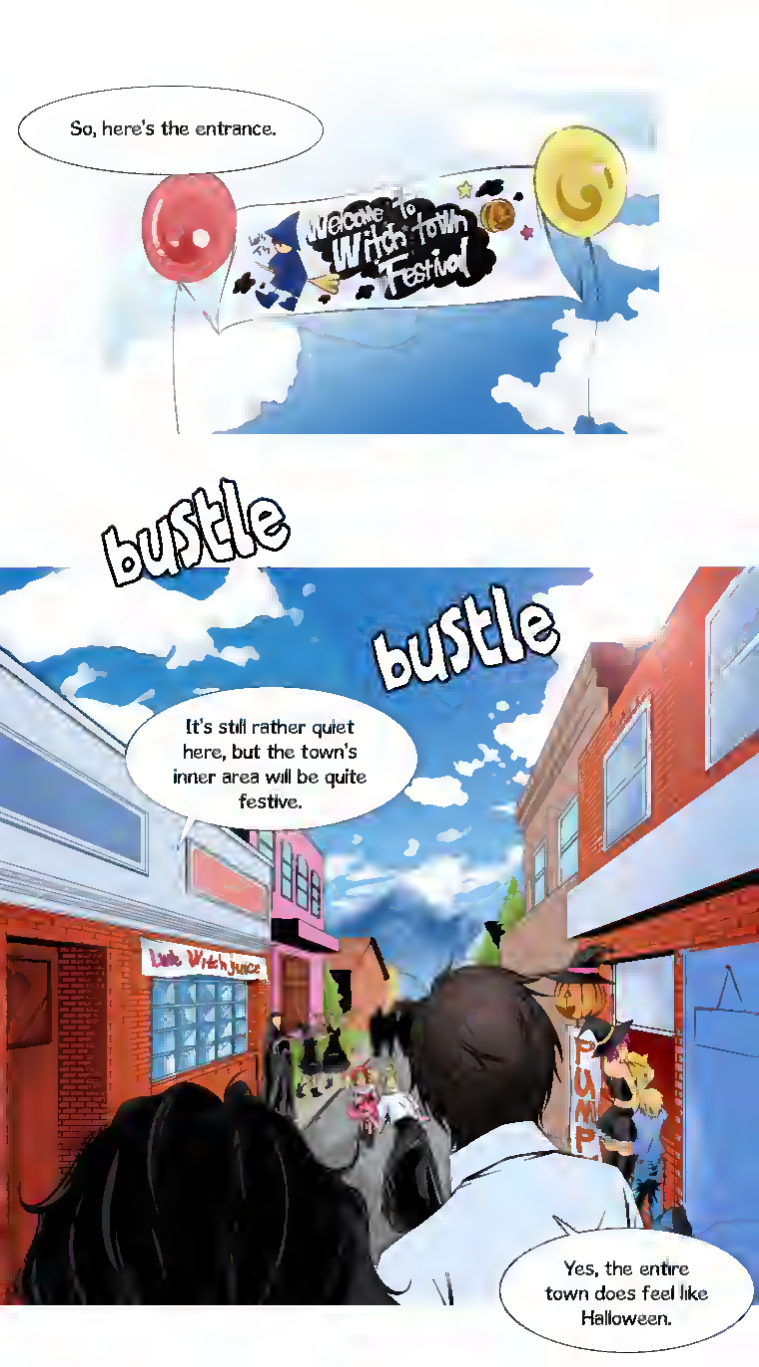
It is said that horror and resentment drove some victims to curse their killers, claiming they will reincarnate as real witches and take revenge.



Originally, the festival was to pacify these victims by the townspeople themselves becoming witches... but too many people gathered here due to the famous "Witch Island" nickname and now it's just a tourist trap...

Haha, oh my~ I really shouldn't be saying all this, considering I make a living off this festival. I hope I'm not ruining the mood for you?
Ah... haha, it's okay. I've learned a lot thanks to you.

A strange island where
the dark shadows of "witch
hunting" and the irony of a town
living off them coexisted.


So, here's the entrance.
Welcome to Witch Town Festival
bustle
bustle
It's still rather quiet here, but the town's inner area will be quite festive.
Little Witch Juice
PUMP
Yes, the entire town does feel like Halloween.

But... where is she? She said she'd be waiting near the entrance...

Then, I'll be off...
Ah, as the person you're waiting for isn't yet here, why not take a tour? Use the chance while you're here or else you'll regret once you're gone.
Ah!

Please! You helped me get here, so I can't just send you off like this...

I... it's okay! I only accompanied you, it's not like I helped much.

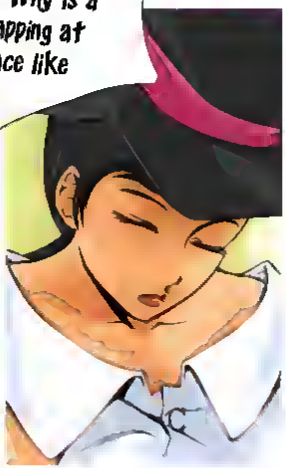
But... at least let me buy you a drink.

Hoho, I told you... It's nothing...

Still...

...

...Wait a minute! Why is a grown woman napping at midday in a place like this...?!



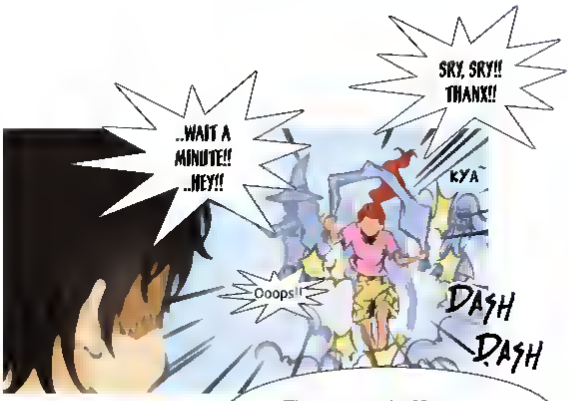
What? What're you..

...Young people these days just don't have any shame! Having her legs uncovered in a crowded place at a time like this...!!!
I can't just let this go! You should be on your way! I must wake her up and instill some discipline in her!
Hey, wake up! A youngster should be working, not sleeping when it's still bright! ...I reserved this spot for my booth!!
BLAH
BLAH
ZZZzzz
Ah.. then I'll be going..
Was I too annoying?
Yes, yes, I'm currently busy, so you should go...
glance

Ooh~ If Dana were here, she'd nag me for being so nosy... I guess I just annoyed him when he was already irritated.

Anyways... where is that girl? She's the one who arranged thi... eh?

bustle bustle



Those sound effects are familiar...

Waaaah! Woo Heun! You didn't get moody and leave for me just being a mere two hours late, did you? I had to write a paper last night... Err, no! My... my clock was broken... No, no... the car broke on the way here... Waaaaaaaaaaaah!!
Welcome WooHyun!!!
sob sob
SORRY FOR EVERYTHING! WHERE ARE YOU, WOO HEUN?! BOOHOO, A MEAL'S WAITING FOR YOU AT HOME, COME BACK!
IF YOU ABANDON ME THE AIRPLANE TIRES WILL BURST BEFORE LIFTOFF~! COME BACK! BOOHOO~

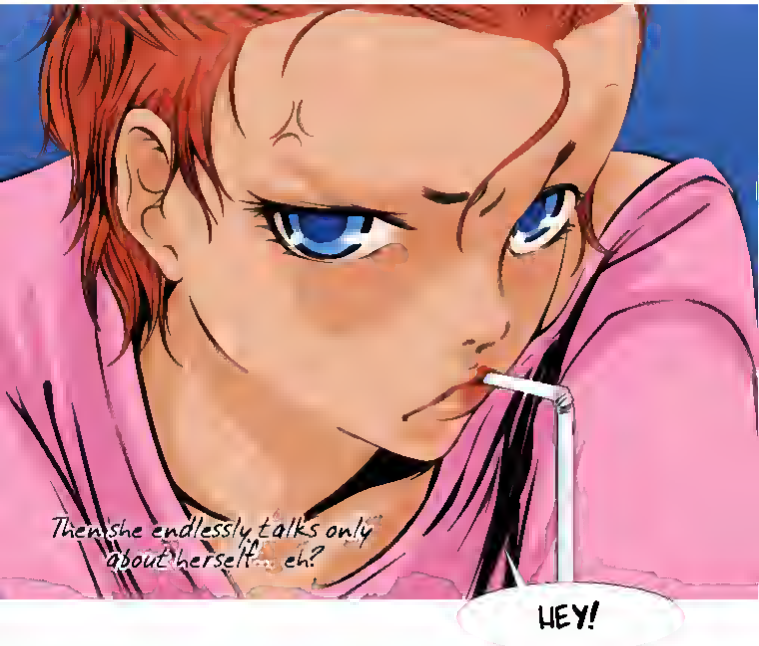
chuckle
...Kukuku.
She hasn't changed at all...
Stupid! What're you doing? How embarrassing!
...Sob, sob! ...Woo...Woo Heun!

Woo Heun!
Why are you so late when you made the appointment yourself?
DASH
...And why are your eyebrows..
I TOLD YOU TO WAIT BY THE ENTRANCE!
crack
Kuuuh-kuh! You... you were... the late one!

You really haven't changed at all...

Save me... T_T

...but she appears with a crude ponytail and baggy clothes.


Then she endlessly talks only about herself... eh?
HEY!

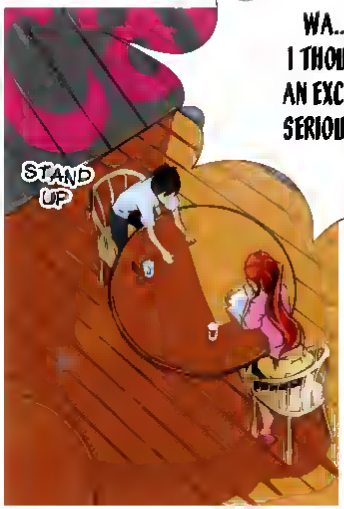
I ASKED YOU IF YOU WERE LISTENING TO ME!! IS IT A CRIME NOT TO WEAR MAKEUP? WHY DO YOU KEEP GLANCING UP AT MY EYEBROWS?!
BAM
ARGH! INNOCENT! INNOCENT!!

...I'm too busy for even sleep nowadays, let alone apply makeup!
But, enough... The thing I wrote about in my letter... the paper I'm preparing. You don't need for me to explain the details, right? I've told you multiple times.
...Of course. You lectured me nonstop while pulling my hair just like this almost daily!
...Yes.
I've been looking for evidence of real witches since university. The reason I was ridiculed was probably because I couldn't prove the existence of magic.

But, what if the idea itself was wrong from the start? Because we think that humans become witches, we can't recognize them as an entity with a power greater than humans. Same with magic. Do you get what I mean?
I do not mean witches in the Shamanist sense, but as a separate species. If magic-wielding "inhuman" humans existed from the beginning, witches wouldn't be as foreign a concept, would it?

Don't be shocked, but I found proof of the 'fact' no one else believes yet. I searched through locations of witch burnings using tales, legends, and records. And I've found it. A real witch's corpse.

Her old clothes and belongings were either decayed or burnt, but her body was as fresh as new. After over six hundred years, her body alone sat atop the other victims' ashes! As if she were about to reincarnate.

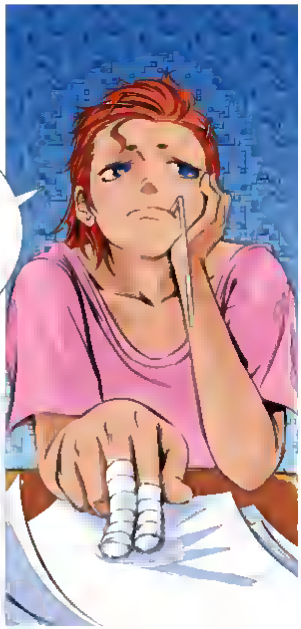


WA...WAIT! A... CORPSE?! I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T HAVE AN EXCAVATION PERMIT YET?! SERIOUSLY, YOU...?! WITHOUT A PERMIT...?!

Ah, ah~ You're beginning to sound like Scully nagging Mulder.

I'm disappointed... And here I was going through all the trouble to tell you first...

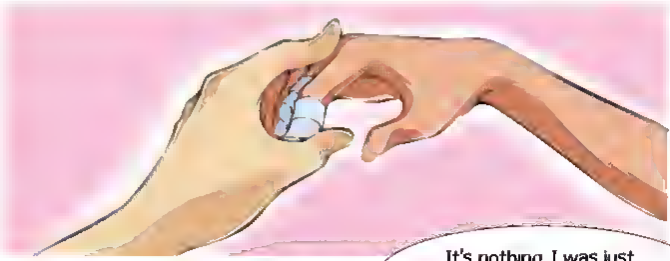
Officially, the victim hasn't been processed. She's unidentified! Though while I haven't yet gotten my permit, the town seems to be privately hoping that this excavation will lead to identifying some of the corpses...



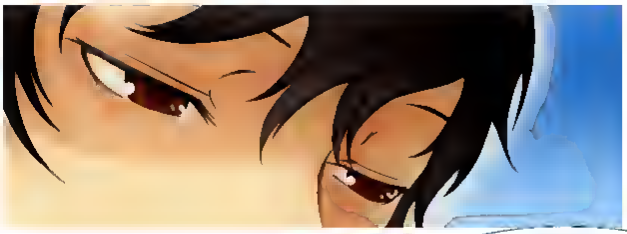
... Apparently, the victims of the witch hunting cursed the town back then. As you probably have notice, in such an uncomfortable atmosphere, they are glad to let someone else do their dirty work. In their eyes I'm doing a good deed, though that's not why I'm doing this.

You...

Why is your hand like this? It's full of wounds...



It's nothing. I was just overexcited due to the excavation.



Really... you haven't changed. You're still so headstrong...

You're the one who hasn't changed. It's only a scratch, yet you act as if I have some horrible sickness.

I... I'm not a kid. I won't be hindered by something like...

...Wait!

WHAT TIME IS IT...?! I PROMISED THAT I'D SEND OVER AN IMPORTANT SAMPLE THIS AFTERNOON!

F...five thirty!

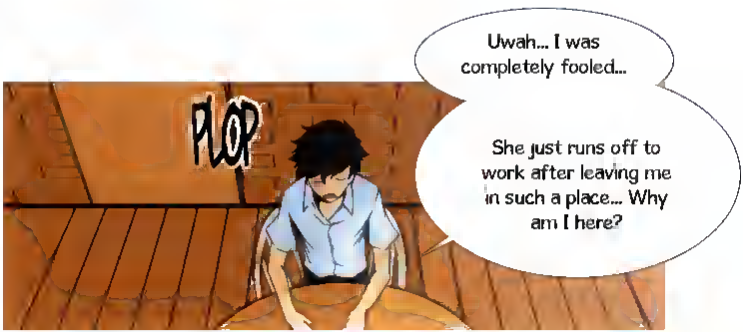
WHAT?! YOU'RE TELLING ME THIS NOW?!

...What? What?! Is it my fault?!

THE PROFESSOR WILL KILL MEEE! I'VE RAN OUT OF EXCUSES...!!

I have no choice! I must return to the excavation camp! The only one who believe my research is Professor Luther. He's my last hope!

There's a map to my lodging place on the letter I gave you, so go there first. Then, I'll be off~
...Eh?
SWOOSH


Uwah... I was completely fooled...
She just runs off to work after leaving me in such a place... Why am I here?
PLOP

I guess spending twelve hours in a plane to see her for only two make me the dumb one...

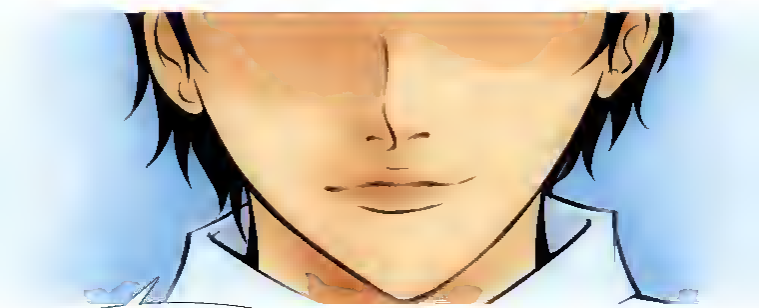
Yes, of course, she does have enough common sense to

GO BEFORE IT GETS DARK, AS A REAL WITCH MAY APPEAR AT NIGHT~! IT'LL BE TROUBLE IF YOU'RE CAUGHT~! AHAHA! I'LL BE AT THE LODGING PLACE BY TOMORROW AFTERNOON, SO LET'S TOUR THE TOWN THEN~ BYE-BYE~!

Is that a jinx?!

I spent twelve hours in a plane for this...

...



...Idiot.

You are the witch.

Getting me to smile after just two hours, even after being in a plane for twelve...

Evil witch...

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2nd Place Winner

Artwork: Munching_chibi
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